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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
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INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHAB/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 4311
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0525
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 4928
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0784
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0551
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0807
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 4512
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2804
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0823
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7565
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1462
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 1279
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 0197
RUEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC 0364
RUEHVN/USMISSION USOSCE 2766
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 0215
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0351
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 2025
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1433
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/CEN, EUR/RUS FOR KATE SZPILA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/26/2018
TAGS: PREL PGOV MARR ASEC FAID GG RS UZ
SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: EXPECTING RUSSIAN PRESSURE ON
RUSSIA-GEORGIA, COY ON STANCE FOR NOW

REF: A. SECSTATE 89769
¶B. SECSTATE 90978
¶C. TASHKENT 973

Classified By: Poloff Steven Prohaska for reasons 1.4 (b, d).

Safe Official Position on Russia-Georgia

¶11. (C) On August 25, Charge d'Affaires met with Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Americas Department Chief Takhir Mamadjanov to urge the Government of Uzbekistan (GOU) to press Russia not to recognize the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and to convey the other points in reftel demarches. Mamadjanov thanked Charge for the information, promising that the GOU will study it carefully and that he will provide it to higher leadership. The GOU will then inform the U.S. Government of Uzbekistan's reaction. When Charge inquired as to whether the GOU was preparing an official statement on the Russia-Georgia situation, Mamadjanov said he had no such knowledge of this. He stated that the Government of Uzbekistan's position is that all parties should adhere to the six-point Medvedev-Sarkozy ceasefire agreement.

The Russians are Coming...

¶12. (S/NF) A reliable Embassy contact in the Government of Uzbekistan also told us on August 25 that the mood in the Presidential Apparatus is tense because of fears concerning Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's September 1-2 visit to Tashkent. Some members of the apparatus believe that while the publicly stated purpose of Putin's visit is to discuss

economic issues, Putin in fact intends to put pressure on Uzbekistan regarding the Russia-Georgia situation, and wants to determine whose side Uzbekistan is on with regard to it. The apparatus cannot proceed on developing its policy on Russia-Georgia because President Karimov is currently residing at his dacha at Karnasai. (Note: Karnasai is located in the northeastern portion of Tashkent province, near Charvak reservoir. End note.) Some pro-U.S. members of the apparatus believed that the Russia-Georgia situation was a bad sign that could portend further Russian meddling in Eurasia, the contact said. The source also stated that Russia had invited First Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov to Russia because it is aware that Azimov is one of the most pro-U.S. members of Uzbekistan's Cabinet of Ministers. (Comment: As of August 26, press reporting corroborated that Azimov had departed for Moscow, and indicated that Putin's visit to Tashkent would be one of the main topics for discussion. It is possible that Russia-Georgia will come up during these talks as well. End comment.)

... and are Putting the Screws to Uzbekistan

¶3. (S/NF) The contact believed that Russia had begun putting pressure on Uzbekistan prior to the conflict between Russia and Georgia as a punitive measure in response to the improving relations between Uzbekistan and the West. Over the past month, Russia had begun to expel Uzbek migrant workers from Russia and had suspended investment in certain oil and gas sector projects. While both sides had previously

expected to come to an agreement this year allowing 600,000 Uzbek migrant workers to work in Russia legally, Moscow had decided a month ago to cap the legal number at only 30,000, the source said.

Comment

¶4. (S/NF) We have seen no other indications that corroborate the Embassy contact's claims about the new number of Uzbek migrant workers legally permitted in Russia, or that Russia has already begun to expel some of these workers. If Russia does commit to a dramatic reduction in the number of Uzbek workers there, this would be a significant step with serious implications for Uzbekistan's economy. We do not expect Mamadjanov to play a very important role on developing Uzbekistan's position on the Russia-Georgia situation, as shown by his stated promise to deliver the information to his higher-ups as well as the other GOU contact's implication that decisionmaking on this issue is frozen until Karimov's return. Despite our demarche, at this point we think it is unlikely that Uzbekistan will push Russia on Georgia. The extent to which Moscow pushes Tashkent to support its position on Russia-Georgia using the various sticks and carrots at its disposal will be influential in determining the GOU's stance on the issue.

BUTCHER